

The Washington Times

THE NATIONAL DAILY
ARTHUR BRISBANE, Editor and Owner
EDGAR D. SHAW, Publisher
Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C.
Published Every Evening (including Sundays) by
The Washington Times Company, Munsey Bldg., Pennsylvania Ave.
Mail Subscriptions: 1 year (Inc. Sundays), \$7.00; 3 Months, \$1.75; 1 month, 60c
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1918

Can the Supreme Court Order Men Not to Persuade Other Men?

It Can, For It DOES. What Happens to the Constitutional Right of Free Speech?

Extremely interesting are two little white documents neatly printed headed "Supreme Court of the United States."

Each of these documents refers to a lawsuit between the Eagle Glass and Manufacturing Company and Thomas W. Rowe, president of the American Flint Glass Workers Union, and others.

The Eagle Glass and Manufacturing Company, of West Virginia, wanted to run an open shop—that is to say, free from union labor and the control of union labor.

The employing company not only demanded freedom to employ anybody it wanted, but also the right to forbid its employees to join any union. And it went to the Supreme Court of the United States for the right to prevent any citizen, union workman or others, from persuading, asking or urging its employees to join any union.

The employing company first asked a local court that all and sundry be enjoined from interfering with plaintiff's employees, "for the purpose of unionizing your orator's glass factory without your orator's consent."

A district judge named Dayton granted what Mr. Justice Brandeis later described as "a sweeping restraining order, which enjoined defendants, among other things, from picketing for the purpose of interviewing or talking to any person or persons on said railroad or street cars coming to or near plaintiff's glass factory to accept employment with the plaintiff for the purpose of inducing . . . them by persuasion . . . to refuse or fail to accept service with plaintiff and from the use of 'persuasion or entreaty' to induce any person in its employ to leave the same."

This as you can see was a very important, and as Judge Brandeis puts it, "sweeping" order.

Under that order, according to our limited light, the United States Constitution is altered to read so that liberty of speech is guaranteed, unless some local judge sees fit to enjoin workmen from using FREE SPEECH "interviewing or talking on railroad or street cars, inducing—persuading, etc."

A higher court, the circuit court of appeals, reversed and dissolved this injunction.

Then the Eagle Glass and Manufacturing Company went to the Supreme Court of the United States.

And the Supreme Court of the United States—Mr. Justice Pitney delivering the opinion—upholds the lower court, upholds the sweeping injunction. The case is remanded to the district court by the Supreme Court of the United States, and sent back once more to the hands of Mr. Dayton.

Justice Brandeis, Justice Holmes, and Justice Clarke uphold the circuit court of appeals which dissolved the injunction and uphold the workmen.

Mr. Justice Brandeis writes the dissenting opinion.

These little white documents from the Supreme Court are very important in the history of the United States and in the history of industry, labor, and capital.

The understanding until now has been that in the Constitution of the United States the right of free speech meant THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH.

We suppose that the Supreme Court would not sustain any injunction that should forbid one workman from peacefully without violence soliciting, persuading, inducing another on street cars, railroads or elsewhere to join the Catholic, Christian Science, or Presbyterian Churches.

We presume that it would be held legal for a workman to try to persuade another to join the Democratic party, Republican party, Prohibition party, or even the Socialist party.

There are several million men in the United States who sincerely believe that the labor union is an agency as necessary, powerful, and beneficial as a religion or a political party.

The learned judges, a majority of the bench, had in their minds what seemed to them excellent reasons for deciding that Free Speech does not include the right to persuade fellow-workmen to join a union.

Mr. Justices Brandeis, Holmes, and Clarke undoubtedly had reasons that seemed to them good for their opinion that it was a violation of the Constitution to forbid men to exercise the right of free speech even as regards persuading men to join the unions for self-protection.

To enjoin men from any act of violence is, of course, right and necessary.

To punish any act of violence is necessary. Interfering, otherwise than by verbal persuasion with any man's occupation, belief, or desire, is, of course, illegal and should be stopped.

If, however, it is legal for the court to forbid one workman to persuade another to join a union, AND IT IS LEGAL NOW, for the Supreme Court has so decided, that is something important to workmen, important to the whole country.

It is the intention here merely to present the facts to readers of different opinions. They will be interested and do their own thinking.

The Supreme Court is the absolute power in the United States.

And what it says is law in the United States—and there is nothing that can undo the opinion of the Supreme Court—

(Continued in Last Column.)

Where Ignorance Is Bliss



How Office Gossip Wrecks Pelt of the Silver Fox Is Most Efficiency

By Elizabeth Jordan

THE office gossip is usually a man. He is middle-aged, pessimistic and inclined to laziness. The top of his head shows a bald spot. His waist line is larger than it should be. He almost always "means well."

He has no enemies in the office and no strong friends. His men associates merely tolerate him. The stenographers and telephone clerks like him personally, but see his failings. The office boys treat him with a noble indifference.

When he stops at a desk for a chat, however, the occupant of that desk lends him an eager ear. The Office Gossip knows things. There is often 50 per cent of fact in what he relates.

"Notice what a grouchy Jones is carrying this morning," he begins. "He's got reason for it."

His hearer sits up. Jones is his own chief.

"What's going on?" he demands. Jones Roasted.

The Office Gossip purses his lips. "Don't let it go any further," he whispers. "But Jones had a big set-to with the boss last night. He came mighty near getting fired!"

"What about?"

"Boss thinks Jones isn't bringing in the bacon. His orders have been dropping off for three months."

"That isn't exactly up to Jones," mutters the listener, with tardy loyalty. "It's the business condition."

"Oh, no, it isn't. Jones has been taking things pretty easy. Besides, that ain't all. Jones has been a little too independent lately to suit the boss. He won't last much longer—if you ask me."

He strolls away. His listener tries to resume his work, but he cannot concentrate. If Jones leaves that will mean reorganizing the department. And in that case—why, perhaps—

His pen scratches idly across the paper before him. His thoughts are centered on his own chances with a new chief.

The office gossip goes his carefree way. His next stopping place is the desk of the head stenographer.

"Say, Bob!" he begins, "is there anything between Green and Miss Calloway?"

"No—not that I know of."

But Bob is interested, as the office gossip knew he would be. Green and Miss Calloway are in his department, and for three months Bob has been conscious that Miss Calloway's eyes are the kind that haunt a fellow.

"What do you mean?" he mutters, anxiously.

"Oh, nothing much."

The office gossip is in his element. "Only I saw them dining together in the Elite restaurant last night. I wondered whether Miss Calloway was going to fall for a chap like Green. It looked like it, all right. She didn't know any one else was in the place."

He wanders away, leaving Bob wretched. Confidentially the office gossip buttonholes the head bookkeeper.

"Anything in the rumor that there's to be a 10 per cent salary cut?" he asks.

The bookkeeper is annoyed. "Where the dickens did you hear that?" he demands, coldly.

"Oh, a little bird told me."

That little bird better keep his mouth shut," suggests the head bookkeeper. He has said enough to convince the Office Gossip that the report is true. Throughout the rest of the day he circulates it assiduously.

He is not intentionally doing harm. Indeed, he feels quite loyal to his employer and really interested in the success of the business.

Breaking the Peace.

But he unites half his associates for their afternoon work. They devote their time to figuring out what a 10 per cent salary cut will mean to them and what cut they can make in their living expenses with the least sacrifice of comfort.

The interest of the Office Gossip often includes the domestic affairs of the office staff.

"Black has a mighty extravagant wife, I hear," he contributes. "I guess it's true, too! I saw them at the theater two nights last month, sitting down in orchestra seats. Saw him put her in a taxicab one night after the play."

"He told me it was a special occasion—their fifth wedding anniversary. But I don't see how his salary rises to that sort of thing. They were both in evening clothes. Has he got anything except what he earns here?"

Suggestions like this dropped into the ears of a certain type of office manager do actual harm. The manager decides that young Black will stand a little watching.

The Office Gossip does not realize this. He himself forgets his gossip almost as soon as he tells it. He is looking for something else—something new.

Bustling from desk to desk, he gets it. The majority of his hearers tell him what they think they know in return for what he thinks he knows.

His stories grow as they travel. His gossiping habits increase with his years. He becomes an office peril—a menace to the peace of mind of each of his associates.

By Garrett P. Serviss.

MOST readers must be astonished by some of the figures relating to the fur trade of this country. Think of a fox whose skin is valued in the market at \$2,000! And then think of saying or a single pair of fox cubs six months old from \$11,000 to \$15,000! These precious foxes are of the "silver" or "silvery-gray" variety, and the cubs sold at the extraordinary prices mentioned were intended for breeding purposes on a "fox farm."

These statistics rest on the authority of Mr. N. Dearborn, biologist in the United States Biological Survey. It is only right to say that the prices quoted for cubs were the result of the inflation of values in the fox-raising business in 1915, and that they do not hold today; but, on the other hand, from \$1,000 to \$2,000 are still the prices named for single skins of the finer grades.

Inflated Prices.

It goes without saying that the silver fox is an extraordinary animal, and all the more so because he is only an ordinary fox wearing a peculiarly colored coat. Scientifically he is called "a melanistic color phase (melanistic meaning black) of the red fox, in which the red hairs of the upper parts are replaced entirely by black, while the white hairs remain as usual."

The result being a beautiful silver-gray tint. Just that little eccentricity of color, a mere caprice of nature, suffices to add a thousand or two of dollars to the selling value of a fox's pelt! If ordinary foxes were silver-gray and nature had only now and then made the black hairs red, then, unquestionably, it would be the wonderful red fox whose skin would command the price of a good automobile.

But luckily for those who would like to wear silver-fox furs without having to pay a large part of a year's income for them, the silver fox is readily domesticated and easily raised on a fox farm. When there are enough of him the prices will decline. Moreover, he keeps his color and hands it down to his descendants, which accounts for the great value of a good pair of breeding cubs. This is lucky, too, for those who are seeking a new kind of industry, although like all new industries that prove successful, fox-farming has been, sometimes, a trap for the careless and unwary plunging into a new business without the necessary knowledge and preliminary experience.

Canadian Farms.

At present, Mr. Dearborn says, there are fox ranches in most of the Canadian provinces, and in about fourteen of the Northern States of this country. Great success has been attained on Prince Edward's Island. The whole of New York and Pennsylvania, all of New England, a wide territory following the Allegheny range as far south as Georgia, the entire belt north of about the latitude of Chicago and vast territories in the Rocky Mountain region and extending to the Pacific are marked by the Department of Agriculture as "zones in which fox-farming is feasible."

But the silver fox, although the most valuable, is not by any means the only fur-bearing animal that can be and has been raised for its pelts in the United States and Canada. Among the others is that beautiful species of weasel called the mink. This was one of the very first fur-bearing animals, and although it was long ago hunted almost to extinction in many parts of the Northern States, yet it found refuge and managed to perpetuate its kind, and now it is domesticated almost as easily as a cat and profitably "farmed."

The first experiment in raising minks is said to have been made in Oneida county, N. Y., half a century ago. Then minks were worth \$20 a pair.

A peculiarly American animal, the skunk, has lately come into popularity for its very excellent, long black fur, which has one slight drawback in its tendency to retain with long use. Probably the only thing that kept skunk furs so long out of use and out of the market was the exceedingly disagreeable and effective means of defense which the animal possesses in its scent gland, from which it can project a liquid almost as terrifying as liquid fire. Fortunately, the glands can be removed without injury to the animal, and the fur has no suggestion of the peculiar skunk odor. Mr. Dearborn puts the annual value of the skunk fur trade in the United States at \$3,000,000, which is a little more than that of the mink trade.

Other Varieties.

Then there are blue or Arctic foxes, which have been raised on the Alaskan islands and also on Prince Edward's Island, while a few pairs have been introduced for experimentation on a New York fox farm. Their skins have been valued as high as \$250 each.

How About Senatorial Working Hours?

Do They Comply With Congressman Borland's Ideas? I Wonder.

By EARL GODWIN.

If the national legislators will look about them perhaps they will see a few notes to cast from their eyes before they begin to pry loose the beam which is in another's eye. I refer to the matter of hours of labor for Government clerks.

It always amuses me to behold through lobby doors members of Congress fast asleep on soft couches. A daily bulletin, giving the names of members of the Senate and House who spend an hour or two sleeping during the hours of the daily session, would be a revelation to the country at large.

Let me quote from Senator Thomas, who was one of the most disgusted Senators who ever faced an empty Senate, on February 16 at 11 o'clock a. m., when that body met early to thresh out the railroad control bill—one of the most important matters in history:

"I know of no manner in which Senators can be compelled to remain here unless we change our rules. We might close our cloakrooms, and possibly the restaurant, and by that means shut off all other places of entertainment and make those who are not attracted here by the speeches come here for want of a place offering better opportunities for entertainment."

"The fact is that Senators do not and will not remain here during the discussion of important measures, except occasionally, and the sessions of the committees and the absence of those sessions neither of them in my judgment affects the average attendance of Senators upon the floor during the discussion of bills. So let us go on and discuss this measure and reach a vote as soon as we can."

Even after ringing the bells all through the Senate offices and committee rooms, announcing the lack of a quorum, only 40 of the 96 members of the United States Senate answered to their names. Excuse was made that committee business demanded the presence of Senators, but the only business of sufficient importance to be recorded in the public prints seems to have been in the Postoffice Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Commerce Committee. Even long after the Senate opened and the empty seats showed that Senators were somewhere besides in the Senate chamber, it was possible to bring only 62 members to the Capitol. And a full attendance of the House is as rare as a day in June!

HEARD AND SEEN

THIS IS SAM HERRICK'S BIRTHDAY

I went to the Gayety Theater to see HARRY JARBOE, the manager. He introduced me to Edmond Hayes, comedian, whom I saw once in Paterson, N. J., in the funniest performance I believe has ever been staged.

Mr. Hayes told me that he acted in a heavy Shakespearean production here twenty-five years ago—with the famous Washington actor, Robert Downing. It was at the National Theater.

"I boarded at 505 Twelfth street northwest that week," said Hayes. I wonder what there was to that boarding house which made him remember the address for a quarter of a century?

However, when you consider that Hayes acted in stock for four years and committed to memory 150 leading parts, you will realize that he has a brain for remembering. He ought to meet Major Pullman's memory expert, H. E. RICHARDSON.

JAMES LEE BOST is one of those life insurance men who see good in everything. For instance, he even goes so far as to say that "Old Lady 31" is one of the greatest life in-

urance dramas ever written and produced.

I see that ROBERT D. HEINL is now the editor of a publication known as the "Emergency Fleet News."

Congratulations to MICHAEL TASSA, U. S. marine corps. He is the son of MRS. FANNIA TASSA, 1368 Meridian street, and has qualified as a sharpshooter.

Two other Washington boys have made records as riflemen in the marine corps. One is ALFRED D. DARTE, son of MRS. MABEL H. DARTE, 1520 Newton street northwest.

The other is STANLEY B. SMITH, son of WALTER J. SMITH, U. S. marine barracks. The latter two young marines have recently qualified as marksmen.

SENATOR OWEN of Oklahoma comes out strong for Government ownership of the public utilities of the District of Columbia:

"I will most assuredly support any measure for Government ownership of telephone lines in the District of Columbia," said the Oklahoma Senator. "Moreover, I think that the street railway lines, electric light and power and gas should be taken over by the Government."

Napoleon started out as a Little Corporal, but J. P. YODER starts off as a Captain.

Double Praise For One Editorial

SIMON LYON R. B. H. LYON
LYON & LYON
Attorneys & Counsellors at Law,
Evans Bldg., 1420 N. Y. Ave. N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Arthur Brisbane,
Editor, The Washington Times,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir—I read with much interest your masterful editorial in yesterday's Times.

I sincerely hope that it will have some good effect.

It would be a good thing if every family in the city of Washington would subscribe for your paper so that such editorials could reach the heart and mind of every sensible being. With kindest regards, I am, friendly, yours,

SIMON LYON.

February 14, 1918.

SIMON WOLF
MYER COHEN
RICHARD D. DANIELS
—LAW OFFICES—
WOLF & COHEN
WOODWARD BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

My dear Mr. Brisbane:

Your illustrative and illuminative editorial of yesterday, calling attention to the gulf existing between England and the Russian civilization, deserves the widest publicity. It is so admirably well-timed and brings home to all liberal-minded the principles for which the world is now at war—liberty of conscience, equality before the law, freedom of action, and justice to all men. These potent factors must eventually win out, no matter at what sacrifice. Keep up the good fight.

Very sincerely,

SIMON WOLF.

February 14, 1918.

Can the Supreme Court Order Men Not to Persuade Other Men?

(Continued from First Column.)

EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES, that is to say, the people.

Whether or not freedom of speech as the ordinary little man understands freedom of speech, and as a majority of the Supreme Court apparently does not understand free speech, is sufficiently important to warrant such an expression of public opinion as would cause the Supreme Court to change its mind—which it has done before in regard to slavery and income tax for instance, is a matter for the people themselves to decide.